



VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA
EIMS



EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM October 2004

WHAT IS VIRGINIA EIMS?

The purpose of this project is to provide a state-level educational information management system (EIMS) that will enable the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to meet increasing state and federal reporting requirements and enable stakeholders at all levels of education to make informed educational decisions based on accurate and timely information.

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN:

- **January 2004:** Pearson Educational Measurement (PEM) was brought on as VDOE's partner to develop the Virginia Educational Information Management System (VA EIMS). PEM has partnered with Windwalker, Corporation(WW) to provide all VA EIMS training.
- **March 2004:** Sixteen VA EIMS pilot divisions were selected.
- **May-June 2004:** Pilot divisions completed submission and resolution of demographic files. 189,372 student demographic records were successfully loaded and matched to assessment results. EIMS student matching processes resulted in a 99% match accuracy. Historical assessment data was successfully loaded and aggregated per state reporting rules.
- **June 2004:** Round Table Meeting in Richmond, VA. Pilot divisions provided suggestions regarding; prioritization of functionality, file management, pre-identification, training, and transferring students. VDOE, PEM, and Windwalker began incorporating these suggestions into plans for future development.
- **July-September 2004:** Sixteen additional divisions were selected to join original sixteen pilot divisions in "Round 2" of VA EIMS. VDOE established the standard data file layout for student record collection (SRC). The new divisions were trained and completed submission/resolution of demographic records per the SRC standard. 645,729 student demographic records from the 32 participating divisions were loaded and matched successfully. EIMS student matching processes resulted in a 99% match accuracy. Student Testing Identifiers were created in EIMS for each student and sent back to the participating divisions and loaded successfully into their local student information systems (SIS).

- **August 2004:** VDOE, PEM, and WW held a two-day meeting to determine reporting needs for VDOE and the divisions. The following priorities were determined:
 1. Expand comparison reporting. Development is currently underway.
Projected availability: Late November 2004.
 2. Increase drill-down capability within reports
 3. Accommodate preliminary data in reports
 4. Create public-facing reports
 5. Include group information in reports
 6. Expand reporting based on the standards that are to be outlined in the Federal Government's Performance Based Data Management Initiative(PBDMI)
- **September –October 2004:** Participating divisions submitted their end-of-year (EOY) Reports to VDOE, complete with State Testing Identifiers (a.k.a. STIs).

LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED:

- **Increase communication:** Participating divisions worked extremely hard to meet aggressive timelines throughout the Pilot and Round Two phases of VA EIMS. The divisions have expressed the need for advanced notice in order to prepare for future tasks. VDOE, PEM, and Windwalker are working together to develop timelines that look further into the future to provide everyone with advanced notice on upcoming events. This newsletter is just one method we will use to communicate future plans to participating divisions.
- **Additional resolution training is needed:** We are all eager to ensure that resolutions are completed correctly within EIMS to ensure accurate reports in the future. In order to support this effort, scenarios for resolving students will be included in upcoming training sessions with corresponding question and answer periods.

WHERE WE ARE HEADED:

- **Current/Upcoming Division Activities:**
 - Current: A few divisions are finalizing any duplicate or incorrect State Testing Identifiers that were generated during resolution for 2003-2004 EOY demographic data. These challenges are being addressed through thorough and detailed system and process reviews by VDOE and PEM. The resulting "lessons-learned" and guidance for resolving these State Test Identifier issues in the future will be forthcoming and be included in future training.
 - Current: Divisions are submitting their Fall student demographic records to PEM, cleaning the files, and resolving student records in order to obtain new STIs for inclusion in the Fall Report to VDOE.
 - Upcoming: Upon receiving 2003-2004 assessment data from VDOE, divisions will be asked to resolve any unmatched assessment records in EIMS (projected for late October).

- **VA EIMS Development Plan:**
 - VDOE, PEM, and Windwalker have created a development plan through January 2005. This plan includes the following:
 - **Statewide Reporting:** VDOE has provided PEM with historical assessment data (2000-2003). PEM will load that data into the database during September and October. Upon receipt of the 2003-2004 assessment data, PEM will load this data into EIMS and provide access to aggregated reports for authorized individuals within each division to run and view reports. Projected availability: Late October 2004.
 - **Fall Release:** This software release will incorporate many of the user interface suggestions made by the pilot divisions at June's Round Table Meeting. Projected availability: Late October 2004.
 - **Automation of Student Demographic File Submission:** This software release will allow divisions to upload Student Demographic Files and download Statewide Testing Identifiers via EIMS (instead of through an FTP site). Projected availability: Late November 2004.
 - **Comparative Reporting:** Reporting enhancements are currently underway. Projected availability: Late November 2004.
 - **Pre-ID Local Labels:** PEM has developed a solution for divisions to print pre-identification labels locally. PEM reviewed this solution with VDOE, Fredericksburg, Virginia Beach, Charlottesville, and Hanover in October and plans to pilot it at Hanover by the end of 2004. Statewide availability projected for January/February 2005.
 - **School Interoperability Framework (SIF):** Pilot to be completed in November 2004. Planning for Statewide implementation of SIF will start in January 2005.
 - **Account Management:** This will allow divisions to create and manage user login identifiers and passwords in EIMS. Projected availability: January/February 2005.
 - **Site Usability Studies:** PEM will conduct studies to identify and implement enhancements to EIMS site usability. Projected availability: Ongoing.
- **Rolling out VA EIMS to all divisions:**
 - Selection and training of 50 new divisions to be completed in October/ November 2004.
 - Selection and training of final 50 divisions to be completed in January/February 2005.
- **Upcoming Training:**
 - VA EIMS Overview to be provided to the next 50 divisions in late October/early November.
 - Refresher course (including additional training on transfer student/resolution scenarios) to be provided to the current 32 participating divisions in late October/early November.

THANK YOU!!

On behalf of VDOE, PEM and Windwalker, we would like to thank the participating divisions for their commitment and hard work. Your patience, perseverance, and insightful feedback have already made a significant difference in the quality of the VA EIMS. We look forward to continuing this exciting project with you! Additional information on VA EIMS can be found at the following website:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/EIMS>

